

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 16 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 15, and 16, and have canceled claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 17, and 18. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Claim Objection

In response to the objection to claim 15, Applicants have corrected the informality noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claim 15 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sato et al.* (“*Sato*”) (US 6,262,817 B1) in view of *Matsumoto et al.* (“*Matsumoto*”) (US 6,647,125 B2) (as noted above, Applicants have herein canceled claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, and 18). As will be explained in more detail below, the combination of *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto* would not have rendered the subject matter defined in independent claims 1 and 16, as amended herein, obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

The *Sato* reference discloses a system and method for adjusting a color image. In particular, the *Sato* reference describes the production of a color adjustment matrix depending upon the luminance, hue, and chroma based on the original image and the adjusted image. With regard to the subject matter defined in present claim 1, the *Sato* reference does not disclose or suggest at least the following features:

1) in response to input of an image as an object of color correction, where device identification information is attached in advance to the input image, when color correction information corresponding to the device identification information attached to the input

image is stored, attaching the corresponding color correction information to the input image as the color space information; and

2) generating color correction information for converting the original image into the resulting color-adjusted image as color space information generated by correcting the color space information attached thereto.

In formulating the obviousness rejection, the Examiner asserts that the *Sato* reference discloses the above-listed features at column 7, lines 32-47, and column 10, lines 11-53. Applicants have reviewed the cited portions of the *Sato* reference and respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the *Sato* reference relative to the claimed subject matter. The production and use of the color adjustment matrix described by *Sato* does not constitute disclosure or suggestion of the above-listed features of the claimed subject matter.

Furthermore, the *Matsumoto* reference does not cure all of the deficiencies of the *Sato* reference relative to the subject matter defined in present claim 1. Thus, even if the *Sato* and *Matsumoto* references were to be combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the subject matter defined in present claim 1 would not have resulted. As such, the combination of *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto* fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of the subject matter defined in present claim 1.

Independent claim 16, as presented herein, defines an image processing method that includes method operations that correspond to the features specified in present claim 1. Thus, the arguments set forth above regarding claim 1 also apply to claim 16.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 16 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto*. Claim 15, which depends from claim 1, is likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto* for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

In light of the cancellation of claim 5 herein, the obviousness rejection of this claim is moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Hayashi* (US 2002/0141004 A1). Claim 6 depends from claim 1. The *Hayashi* reference does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of the *Sato* and *Matsumoto* references relative to the subject matter defined in present claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Hayashi* for at least the reason that this claim depends from claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 9, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Adam et al.* (US 2004/0130739 A1) (as noted above, Applicants have herein canceled claims 11 and 14). Claim 9, as presented herein, depends from claim 1. The *Adam et al.* reference does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of the *Sato* and *Matsumoto* references relative to the subject matter defined in present claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Sato* in view of *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Adam et al.* for at least the reason that this claim depends from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 16, as presented herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in

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connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ITECP011).

Respectfully submitted,
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